

EXHIBIT A

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7 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
8 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

9 In re
10 META MATERIALS INC.,
11 Debtor.

Case No.: 24-50792-hlb
(Chapter 7)

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

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14 Hearing Date: N/A
15 Hearing Time: N/A

16 WHEREAS, in connection with the above-captioned litigation (the “Action”), Chapter 7
17 Trustee Christina Lovato (“Trustee”); and Third-Party Subpoena Respondents, Charles Schwab &
18 Co., Inc., TD Ameritrade, TradeStation Securities, Inc., and Think or Swim (collectively “Third
19 Party Respondents”) (Trustee and Third Party Respondents collectively referred to as “the
20 Parties;” each individually a “Party”) believe that certain information that is or will be
21 encompassed by discovery demands by the Parties involves the production or disclosure of trade
22 secrets, confidential business information, and/or confidential and/or personal identifying
23 information as to non-party public customers of Third Party Respondents, or other proprietary
24 information;

25 WHEREAS, the Parties respectfully request that the Court enter this order (“Protective
26 Order”) limiting disclosure thereof in accordance with 11 U.S.C. 107(b) and Rule 9018 of the
27 Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “**Bankruptcy Rules**”) and, as applicable, pursuant to
28 Bankruptcy Rules 2004, 7026 and 9014 and Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, to facilitate and expedite the production, exchange and treatment of
2 material produced in discovery (“Discovery Material”), to facilitate the prompt resolution of
3 disputes over confidentiality, and to protect Discovery Material that a Party seeks to maintain as
4 confidential, it is hereby stipulated among the Parties and agreed, and, upon Court approval, it is
5 hereby **ORDERED** that the following terms will govern any requests for and production of
6 Discovery Material:

7
8 1. Each Party may designate as confidential for protection under this Protective Order,
9 in whole or in part, any document, information, or material that constitutes or includes, in whole
10 or in part, confidential or proprietary information or trade secrets of the Party or a Third Party to
11 whom the Party reasonably and in good faith believes it owes an obligation of confidentiality with
12 respect to such document, information, or material (“Protected Material”). This includes, but is not
13 limited to, documents, information, or materials that reveal:

- 14 a. Confidential trade secrets or proprietary business information;
- 15 b. Financial information (including tax return or bank account information;
16 profit and loss reports or estimates; trading positions; transactional data; risk reports; liquidity
17 reports; brokerage commission reports and summaries; commission agreements; employment
18 contracts; documents reflecting dates, amounts and basis of remuneration of compensation;
19 materials related to fees received for services provided; and materials related to employee
20 compensation);
- 21 c. Material not previously disclosed to the public related to ownership or
22 control of any non-public company;
- 23 d. Proprietary business information or communications, or other confidential
24 research, development, or commercial information or communications;
- 25 e. Information, materials, or other documents reflecting non-public business
26 or financial strategies, and/or confidential competitive information that, if disclosed, would result
27 in competitive harm to the disclosing party;
- 28 f. Sensitive, non-public personal, client, or customer information concerning

1 individuals or other entities, including information that would be considered personally
2 identifiable information under any applicable law and/or protected from public disclosure under
3 relevant securities laws to include, but not limited to, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and Regulation
4 S-P;

5 g. The identity and investment positions of persons or entities who have
6 invested in, or hold an interest in, partnerships, trusts, funds, or other investment vehicles that are
7 produced or otherwise disclosed during the course of this Action;

8 h. Information for which applicable law, regulation, policy, or other guidance
9 or rule of any governmental authority—foreign or domestic—requires confidential treatment, to
10 the extent any disclosure is permitted by law; or

11 i. Any other category of information given confidential status by the Court.

12 Nothing in this Paragraph 1 or in this Protective Order shall affect the right, if any, of any
13 Party or witness to make any type of objection, claim, or other response to a discovery request of
14 any type, including interrogatories, requests for admissions, requests for production of documents
15 or questions at deposition, and to withhold production where appropriate.

16 2. Protected Material shall be designated by the Party producing it by affixing a legend
17 or stamp on such document, information, or material as follows: “CONFIDENTIAL” or
18 “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.” The word “CONFIDENTIAL” or phrase “HIGHLY
19 CONFIDENTIAL” shall be placed clearly on each page of the Protected Material (except
20 deposition and hearing transcripts) for which such protection is sought. For deposition and hearing
21 transcripts, the word “CONFIDENTIAL” or phrase “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” shall be placed
22 on the cover page of the transcript (if not already present on the cover page of the transcript when
23 received from the court reporter) by each attorney receiving a copy of the transcript after that
24 attorney receives notice of the designation of some or all of that transcript as “CONFIDENTIAL”
25 or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.”

26 3. With respect to documents, information, or material designated
27 “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” (collectively, “DESIGNATED
28 MATERIAL”), subject to the provisions herein and unless otherwise stated, this Protective Order

governs, without limitation: (a) all documents, electronically stored information, and/or things as defined by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; (b) all pretrial, hearing or deposition testimony, or documents marked as exhibits or for identification in depositions and hearings; (c) pretrial pleadings, exhibits to pleadings, and other court filings; (d) affidavits; and (e) stipulations. All copies, reproductions, extracts, digests, and complete or partial summaries prepared from any DESIGNATED MATERIALS shall also be considered DESIGNATED MATERIAL and treated as such under this Order.

4. Protected Material may be designated “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” at any time. Inadvertent or unintentional production of documents, information, or material that has not been designated as DESIGNATED MATERIAL shall not be deemed a waiver in whole or in part of a claim for confidential treatment. Any party that inadvertently or unintentionally produces Protected Material without designating it as DESIGNATED MATERIAL, or having applied an incorrect designation, may request destruction (or if electronic the elimination of that electronic record) of that Protected Material by notifying the recipient(s), as soon as reasonably possible after the producing Party becomes aware of the inadvertent or unintentional disclosure, and providing replacement Protected Material that is properly designated. The recipient(s) shall then, as reasonably practicable, destroy all copies of the inadvertently or unintentionally produced Protected Material (or if electronic the elimination of that electronic record) and any documents, information or material derived from or based thereon. The recipient(s) shall not be liable for failing to treat as confidential DESIGNATED MATERIAL before it has been designated as such.

5. “CONFIDENTIAL” documents, information, and material may be disclosed only to the following persons, except upon receipt of the prior written consent of the designating party, or upon order of the Court:

- a. outside counsel of record in this Action;
- b. employees of such counsel assigned to and reasonably necessary to assist such counsel in the litigation of this Action;
- c. in-house counsel for the Parties who either have decision-making authority

1 for the litigation of this Action or are assisting outside counsel in the litigation of this Action;

2 d. to the extent that disclosure is reasonably necessary for the Action, current
3 officers, directors, or employees of the Parties who are assisting counsel in the Action;

4 e. outside consultants or experts (i.e., not existing employees or affiliates of a
5 Party or an affiliate of a Party) retained for the purpose of this litigation, provided that:

6 (1) the Parties' counsel, in good faith, requires the consultants' or
7 experts' assistance in connection with the Action;

8 (2) before access is given, the consultant or expert has completed the
9 Undertaking attached as Appendix A hereto;

10 (3) any part of any report created by such expert or consultant
11 incorporating DESIGNATED MATERIAL in whole or in part shall be designated appropriately
12 by the Party responsible for its creation; and

13 (4) such experts or consultants may not use DESIGNATED
14 MATERIAL for any purpose that does not relate directly to the Action (including without
15 limitation other litigation and other work in their respective fields);

16 f. independent litigation support services, including persons working for or as
17 court reporters, interpreters, graphics or design services, jury or trial consulting services, and
18 photocopy, document imaging, and database services retained by counsel and reasonably
19 necessary to assist counsel with the litigation of this Action;

20 g. the Court and its personnel for *in camera* review with the specific
21 understanding that all such DESIGNATED MATERIAL may not be filed on the public docket
22 unless under seal, as discussed further herein;

23 h. any mediator agreed upon by the Parties, and their personnel; and

24 i. the author, addressee(s), or recipient(s) of the DESIGNATED MATERIAL,
25 or any other natural person who counsel determines after reasonable inquiry generally would have
26 had access to such information during his or her employment or who is specifically identified in
27 the document or its accompanying metadata, provided, however, that (i) this disclosure is made
28 for the purpose of advancing the disclosing Party's claims or defenses, and for no other purposes;

1 and (ii) the person is not permitted to retain copies of the DESIGNATED MATERIAL. In the
2 event any Party leaves the employ of any authorized person hereunder, any CONFIDENTIAL
3 material shall be returned to legal counsel for the Party receiving the data.

4 6. Documents, information, or material produced pursuant to any discovery request in
5 this Action, including but not limited to Protected Material designated as DESIGNATED
6 MATERIAL, shall be used by the Parties only in the litigation of this Action, and shall not be used
7 for any other purpose. Any person or entity who obtains access to DESIGNATED MATERIAL or
8 the contents thereof pursuant to this Protective Order shall not make any copies, duplicates,
9 extracts, summaries, or descriptions of such DESIGNATED MATERIAL or any portion thereof
10 except as may be reasonably necessary in the litigation of this Action. Any such copies, duplicates,
11 extracts, summaries, or descriptions are DESIGNATED MATERIALS subject to all of the terms
12 and conditions of this Protective Order.

13 7. To the extent a producing Party believes that certain Protected Material qualifying
14 to be designated CONFIDENTIAL is so sensitive that its dissemination deserves even further
15 limitation than applies to material designated CONFIDENTIAL, including because it contains
16 current trade secrets or other information that the party reasonably believes the unauthorized
17 disclosure of which would result in imminent competitive, commercial, or financial harm to the
18 Producing Party or its personnel, clients, or customers, the producing Party may designate such
19 Protected Material "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL."

20 8. For Protected Material designated HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL, access to, and
21 disclosure of, such Protected Material shall be limited to individuals listed in paragraphs 5.a-c and
22 5.e-h.

23 9. The Parties shall meet and confer if a producing Party believes that any Protected
24 Material requires a designation of "For Attorneys' Eyes Only."

25 10. Nothing in this Protective Order shall require production of documents,
26 information, or other material that a Party contends is protected from disclosure by the attorney-
27 client privilege, the work product doctrine, or other privilege, doctrine, or immunity. If documents,
28 information, or other material subject to a claim of attorney-client privilege, work product doctrine,

1 or other privilege, doctrine, or immunity are inadvertently or unintentionally produced, such
2 production shall not constitute a waiver of, or estoppel as to, any such privilege, doctrine, or
3 immunity. Any Party that inadvertently or unintentionally produces documents, information, or
4 other material it reasonably believes are protected under the attorney-client privilege, work product
5 doctrine, or other privilege, doctrine, or immunity may obtain the return of such documents,
6 information, or other material by promptly notifying the recipient(s) and providing a privilege log
7 for the inadvertently or unintentionally produced documents, information, or other material. The
8 recipient(s) shall gather and return all copies of such documents, information, or other material to
9 the producing Party, or certify in writing to the producing Party that such documents, information,
10 or other material have been destroyed as reasonably practicable.

11 11. Nothing in this Protective Order shall affect any obligation a Party may have to
12 produce a privilege log in accordance with Local Civil Rule 26.2.

13 12. There shall be no disclosure of any DESIGNATED MATERIAL by any person
14 authorized to have access thereto to any person who is not authorized for such access under this
15 Order. The Parties are hereby ORDERED to safeguard all such documents, information, and
16 material to protect against disclosure to any unauthorized persons or entities.

17 13. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prejudice any Party's right to use
18 any DESIGNATED MATERIAL in taking testimony at any deposition or hearing, provided that
19 the DESIGNATED MATERIAL is only disclosed to a person(s) who is: (i) eligible to have access
20 to the DESIGNATED MATERIAL by virtue of his or her employment with the designating party,
21 (ii) identified in the DESIGNATED MATERIAL as an author, addressee, or copy recipient of such
22 information, (iii) although not identified as an author, addressee, or copy recipient of such
23 DESIGNATED MATERIAL, has, in the ordinary course of business, seen such DESIGNATED
24 MATERIAL, (iv) a current or former officer, director or employee of the producing Party or a
25 current or former officer, director or employee of a company affiliated with the producing Party;
26 (v) counsel for a Party, including outside counsel and in-house counsel (subject to paragraph 8 of
27 this Protective Order); (vi) an independent contractor, consultant, and/or expert retained for the
28 purpose of this litigation; (vii) court reporters and videographers; (viii) the Court; or (ix) other

1 persons entitled hereunder to access to DESIGNATED MATERIAL. DESIGNATED
2 MATERIAL shall not be disclosed to any other persons unless prior authorization is obtained from
3 counsel representing the producing Party or from the Court.

4 14. Parties may, at the deposition or hearing or within sixty (60) days after receipt of a
5 deposition or hearing transcript, designate the deposition or hearing transcript or any portion
6 thereof as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” pursuant to this Protective Order.
7 Access to the deposition or hearing transcript so designated shall be limited in accordance with the
8 terms of this Protective Order. Until expiration of the 60-day period, the entire deposition or
9 hearing transcript shall be treated as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.”

10 15. The Protective Order applies to pretrial discovery. Nothing in this Protective Order
11 shall be deemed to prevent the Parties from introducing any DESIGNATED MATERIAL into
12 evidence at the trial of this Action, or from using any information contained in DESIGNATED
13 MATERIAL at the trial of this Action, subject to any pretrial order issued by this Court.

14 16. A Party may request in writing to the other Party that the designation given to any
15 DESIGNATED MATERIAL be modified or withdrawn. If the designating Party does not agree to
16 re-designation within five (5) days of receipt of the written request, the requesting Party may apply
17 to the Court for relief. Upon any such application to the Court, the burden shall be on the
18 designating Party to show why its classification is proper. Such application shall be treated
19 procedurally as a motion to compel pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37, subject to the
20 Rule’s provisions relating to sanctions. In making such application, the requirements of the Federal
21 Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the Court shall be met. Pending the Court’s
22 determination of the application, the designation of the designating Party shall be maintained.

23 17. Each outside consultant or expert to whom DESIGNATED MATERIAL is
24 disclosed in accordance with the terms of this Protective Order shall be provided with a copy of
25 this Protective Order, shall be informed that he or she is subject to the terms and conditions of this
26 Protective Order, and shall sign an acknowledgment that he or she has received a copy of, has read,
27 and has agreed to be bound by this Protective Order. A copy of the acknowledgment form is
28 attached as **Appendix A**.

1 18. To the extent that any discovery is taken of persons who are not Parties to this
2 Action (“Third Parties”) and in the event that such Third Parties contend that the discovery sought
3 involves trade secrets, confidential business information, or other proprietary information, then
4 such Third Parties may agree to be bound by this Protective Order and entitled to its protections.

5 19. To the extent that discovery or testimony is taken of Third Parties, the Third Parties
6 may designate as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” any documents,
7 information, or other material, in whole or in part, produced or given by such Third Parties.

8 20. If a Party is served with a subpoena issued by a court, arbitral, administrative, or
9 legislative body, or with a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any
10 information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY
11 CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must: (a) promptly notify in writing the designating Party, with
12 such notification to include a copy of the subpoena or court order; (b) promptly notify in writing
13 the person who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the
14 material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order, with such notification
15 to include a copy of this Protective Order; and (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable
16 procedures sought to be pursued by the designating Party whose Protected Material may be
17 affected. If the designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the
18 subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as
19 “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from
20 which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the designating Party’s
21 permission. The designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that
22 court of its Protected Material, and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing
23 or encouraging a receiving Party in this action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

24 21. **Sealing of DESIGNATED MATERIAL Filed with or Submitted to Court:**
25 Unless otherwise agreed by the Producing Party, all DESIGNATED MATERIAL filed with the
26 Court, and all portions of pleadings, motions or other papers filed with the Court that disclose
27 CONFIDENTIAL or HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL Protected Material, shall be filed under seal in
28 accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Bankruptcy Rules, Local Rules, and the

1 practice rules of the Court. It shall be the burden of the Movant who desires to serve any document
2 to establish with the Court the bona fide reason(s) for which the document(s) requested are to be
3 sealed.

4 22. **Use of DESIGNATED MATERIAL in Open Court:** The limitations on
5 disclosure in this Order shall not apply to any DESIGNATED MATERIAL offered or otherwise
6 used by any Party at trial or any hearing held in open court except as provided in this paragraph.
7 As part of any pretrial conference or any meet and confer regarding the use of exhibits in any
8 evidentiary hearing, and where practicable at least 24 hours prior to the use of any DESIGNATED
9 MATERIAL at trial or any hearing to be held in open court, counsel for any Party who desires to
10 offer or use such DESIGNATED MATERIAL at trial or any hearing to be held in open court shall
11 meet and confer in good faith with the Producing Party, together with any other Parties who have
12 expressed interest in participating in such meet and confer, to discuss ways to redact the
13 DESIGNATED MATERIAL so that the DESIGNATED MATERIAL may be offered or otherwise
14 used by any Party, in accordance with the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy
15 Rules. If the Parties are unable to resolve a dispute related to such DESIGNATED MATERIAL,
16 then the Producing Party bears the burden of requesting relief from the Court.

17 23. Within thirty (30) days of final termination of this Action, including any appeals,
18 all DESIGNATED MATERIAL, including all copies, duplicates, abstracts, indexes, summaries,
19 descriptions, and excerpts or extracts thereof (excluding excerpts or extracts incorporated into any
20 privileged memoranda of the Parties and materials which have been admitted into evidence in this
21 Action), shall at the producing Party's election either be returned to the producing Party or be
22 destroyed as reasonably practicable. The receiving Party shall verify the return or destruction by
23 affidavit furnished to the producing Party, upon the producing Party's request.

24 24. The failure to designate documents, information, or material in accordance with
25 this Protective Order and the failure to object to a designation at a given time shall not preclude
26 redesignation pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Protective Order or the filing of a motion at a later
27 date seeking to impose such designation or challenging the propriety thereof. The entry of this
28 Protective Order and/or the production of documents, information, and material hereunder shall in

1 no way constitute a waiver of any objection to the furnishing thereof, all such objections being
2 hereby preserved.

3 25. Any Party knowing or believing that any other party is in violation of, or intends to
4 violate, this Protective Order and has raised the question of violation or potential violation with
5 the opposing party and has been unable to resolve the matter by agreement, may move the Court
6 for such relief as may be appropriate in the circumstances. Pending disposition of the motion by
7 the Court, the Party alleged to be in violation of or intending to violate this Protective Order shall
8 discontinue the performance of and/or shall not undertake the further performance of any action
9 alleged to constitute a violation or potential violation of this Protective Order.

10 26. Production of DESIGNATED MATERIAL by each of the Parties shall not be
11 deemed a publication of the documents, information, and material (or the contents thereof)
12 produced so as to void or make voidable whatever claim the Parties may have as to the proprietary
13 and confidential nature of the documents, information, or other material or its contents.

14 27. Nothing in this Protective Order shall be construed to effect an abrogation, waiver,
15 or limitation of any kind on the rights of each of the Parties to assert any applicable discovery or
16 trial privilege.

17 28. Each of the Parties shall also retain the right to file a motion with the Court (a) to
18 modify this Protective Order to allow disclosure of DESIGNATED MATERIAL to additional
19 persons or entities if reasonably necessary to prepare and present this Action and (b) to apply for
20 additional protection of DESIGNATED MATERIAL.

21 29. A Party shall not use any other Party's DESIGNATED MATERIAL for any
22 purpose not directly related to this Action without the other Party's approval or as otherwise
23 permitted by a cross-use agreement between the Parties.

24 30. Nothing in this Protective Order shall (i) prevent a Party from disclosing its own
25 information that it has designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL," as it
26 deems appropriate; (ii) impose any restrictions on the use or disclosure of information obtained
27 other than through discovery in this matter; or (iii) in any way restrict the ability of any party or
28 witness to comply with a legal duty to disclose, regardless of the source of that duty. A disclosure

1 under item (iii) shall not be deemed a waiver of any other party's obligations under this Protective
2 Order, except as provided by law.

3 31. The terms of this Protective Order shall survive any settlement, discontinuance,
4 dismissal, judgment, or other disposition of this Action.

5 32. The parties acknowledge that the Court retains discretion as to whether, in Orders
6 and Opinions, to afford confidential treatment to information that the parties have redacted, sealed
7 or designated as confidential.

8 33. This Order is a procedural device intended to protect Discovery Materials
9 designated as DESIGNATED MATERIAL. Nothing in this Order shall affect any Party's rights
10 or obligations unrelated to the confidentiality of Discovery Materials.

11 34. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed a waiver or relinquishment by any Party
12 of any objection, including, but not limited to, any objection concerning the alleged confidentiality
13 or proprietary nature of any documents, information, or data requested by a Party, any right to
14 object to any discovery request, or any right to object to the admissibility of evidence on any
15 ground, or to seek any further protective order, or to seek relief from the Court or any other
16 applicable court from any provision of this Order by application on notice on any grounds.

17 35. Nothing in this Order affects the right of any Producing Party to use or disclose its
18 own Discovery Material in any way. Such disclosure will not waive the protections of this Order
19 and will not otherwise entitle other Parties, non-Parties, or their attorneys to use or disclose such
20 Discovery Material in violation of this Order.

21 **SO STIPULATED AND AGREED:**

22 Winget, Spadafore and Schwartzberg, LLP

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27 *On behalf of Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.,*
28 *TD Ameritrade, TradeStation Securities, Inc.,*
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Pro Hac Vice Application Forthcoming*

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21 *On behalf of Chapter 7 Trustee Christina Lovato*

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

DISTRICT OF NEVADA

In re
META MATERIALS INC.,
Debtor.

Case No.: 24-50792-hlb
(Chapter 7)

APPENDIX A

**UNDERTAKING OF EXPERTS OR
CONSULTANTS REGARDING
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

Hearing Date: N/A
Hearing Time: N/A

I, _____, declare that:

1. My address is _____.
My current employer is _____.
My current occupation is _____.
2. I have received a copy of the Protective Order in this action. I have carefully read and understand the provisions of the Protective Order.
3. I will comply with all of the provisions of the Protective Order. I will hold in confidence, will not disclose to anyone not qualified under the Protective Order, and will use only for purposes of this action any information designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" that is disclosed to me.
4. Promptly upon termination of these actions, I will return all documents and things designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" that came into my possession, and all documents and things that I have prepared relating thereto, to the outside counsel for the party by whom I am employed.

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1 5. I hereby submit to the jurisdiction of this Court for the purpose of enforcement of the
2 Protective Order in this action.

3
4 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

5
6
7 Signature _____

8
9 Date _____